

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A pressure attenuation shield for attenuating a pressure blast and shielding a structure, the shield comprising:
  - 5 a spray of attenuation material disposed proximate a periphery of the structure and between an origination of the pressure blast and the structure such that the shield attenuates the pressure blast by at least about 14.7 psi within a thickness of less than about 1 meter of the spray.
- 10 2. A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein the shield extends substantially vertically and horizontally about at least a portion of the structure.
3. A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein said attenuation material comprises water droplets having an average size of between about 0.01 mm  
15 and 1.0 mm.
4. A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein said attenuation material comprises solid particles of at least one of the group consisting of sand and polystyrene.  
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5. A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein said attenuation material comprises gaseous bubbles and said shield extends through a liquid medium.
6. A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein the attenuation  
25 material is disposed as particulates having an average size of between about 0.01 mm and 1.0 mm.
7. A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein a three dimensional packing factor of said attenuation material is between about 0.001 and  
30 0.01.
8. A pressure attenuation shield according to Claim 1 wherein a three dimensional packing factor of said attenuation material is non-uniform across a

thickness of the shield and generally increases in a direction from the origination toward the structure.

9. A method of attenuating a pressure blast to shield a protected area, the method  
5 comprising:

detecting a threat of a pressure blast; and

in response to the threat, spraying particulates to form a shield extending  
between an origination of the pressure blast and the protected area such that the shield  
attenuates the pressure blast from the origination.

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10. A method according to Claim 9 wherein spraying particulates comprises  
spraying at least one of the group consisting of water droplets, sand, and polystyrene.

11. A method according to Claim 9 wherein spraying particulates comprises  
15 spraying a fluid from pipes disposed at a peripheral area of the protected area such  
that the shield extends substantially vertically downward and in a horizontal direction  
about at least a portion of the protected area.

12. A method according to Claim 9 further comprising spraying the particulates  
20 with an average size of between about 0.01 mm and 1.0 mm.

13. A method according to Claim 9 further comprising spraying the particulates  
such that the shield has a three dimensional packing factor of between about 0.001  
and 0.01.

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14. A method according to Claim 9 further comprising spraying the particulates  
such that the packing factor generally increases in a direction from the origination  
toward the structure.

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